

In his father's footsteps, Mr. Michael Ephrem Akiki and family visit LERC

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Reported by Elie Nabhan

Following on the two visits his father, Mr. Kozhaya Akiki, made to the Lebanese Emigration Research Center, Louaizé, earlier in May 2011, Mr. Michael Ephrem Akiki, retraced the same steps by visiting LERC, accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Jeanine Farah-Akiki, and children, Samer and Maya.

Mr. Kozhaya Akiki was born in Kfardebian, Lebanon, in 1938. He met his wife Nora Bernadette Maroun, resident of Tupper Lake, New York, in 1958, while she was on a visit to Lebanon. They married in Lebanon and then the couple moved to Tupper Lake, where they taught at various local schools.

They were blessed with three sons, the twins, Gregory Shekrallah and Geoffrey Maroun, and the youngest, Michael Ephrem.

Michael Ephrem received his Master Degree from the University of Vermont in the United States. Mrs. Jeanine Akiki was born in Lebanon and, with her father Souheil Farah from the village of Joun and her mother Mathilda Korkmaz from Jouret el Termos, emigrated to the USA. Michael is currently a manager with Qualcomm Co. and his wife is a manager with IBM Co.



The Akiki Family pictured with the Kozhaya Akiki Collection at the Lebanon Migration Museum at NDU (June 2011).

Michael and his family, who now reside in San Diego, California, were given a presentation of all the materials collected in LERC's electronic archives. They were pleasantly surprised by the number and variety of family photos and newspaper articles that Mr. Kozhaya Akiki had collected on their behalf and which were now part of the LERC Archives. This same sentiment was expressed when viewing the Kozhaya Akiki Collection in the Lebanon Migration Museum at NDU.

The family met with LERC's Director Ms. Guita Hourani, who informed them of the Kozhaya and Nora Akiki Internship Grant, established by Mr. Kozhaya Akiki, which will provide some financial assistance to two local Lebanese students through their internship at LERC, which is fundamental to their transition between graduating and finding a job.



The Akiki's at LERC: (from left to right) Mr. E. Sfeir, Mrs. S. Kassis-Abi Rached, Mrs. L. Haddad, Mrs. J. Akiki, Ms. M. Akiki, Mr. S. Akiki, Mr. M. Akiki, Ms. G. Hourani (June 2011).

The family were delighted with the presentation of LERC's electronic archives and the tour of the museum and described LERC "as a wonderful center that is certain to grow and develop," pledging their support and wishing continued success.